



Camp Cresset

Finley's Brigade
Camp #1614
Havana, Florida



Recipient – 2011 and 2012 Dr. George R. Tabor "Most Distinguished Camp" Award

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, UCV Commander General



December Camp Meeting

**Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on December 13 at the VFW.
Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.**



Captain Thomas Jefferson Bruton



On Saturday, December 3, 2022, members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans met at the Oak City Cemetery in Bainbridge Georgia to dedicate the gravestone of **Captain Thomas Jefferson Bruton**.

Thomas was born on January 6, 1843, in Decatur County Georgia and was orphaned when his father passed away in 1851. On July 1, 1859, he was admitted to West Point Military Academy, three months before his 17th birthday. In February of 1961 he resigned his commission and left the Academy due to the impending civil war.

He enlisted in Dents Artillery Battery in Florida and was appointed as an officer. Later he was assigned to the Sustenance Office as an Ordinance Officer. After resigning from that position, he was appointed to command another battery. At the end of the war, he was Captain of the Bruton Light Artillery.

He died suddenly on January 6, 1876 and was buried in Oak City Cemetery between his wife and child. His grave, most likely, had a wooden marker, long since gone. Thanks to the efforts of Compatriot Larry Skinner and members of the Finley's Brigade, Camp 1614, his grave is properly marked.



Following opening ceremonies and posting of the colors by **Finley's Brigade's Honor Guard**,



Captain Jack Cowart of the CSS Chattahoochee Camp, Georgia SCV, related the history of Captain Bruton.

The gravestone was unveiled by 3rd FL Brigade Commander **Mark R. Bess** and **Marshall Brewton**, a family descendant.

A red rose was placed on the grave by **Mrs. Jane Thomas**, representing the Mary Ann Harvey Black Chapter #5, Order of Confederate Rose (OCR) seen here with **Annette Harrell** of the Anna Jackson chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and **Linda Granthum** representing the OCR and UDC.



A cannon salute was given by “I’il pup”, donated to the Kirby-Smith Camp #1209, followed by a musket salute. With the playing of *taps*, the solemn event ended.

*A hundred years from now, no one will know how much work was put into this project; but they will know that **Thomas Jefferson Bruton** was a Confederate Soldier, and he is buried with his family.*

Thanks to all those camps and individuals who worked together to make this event possible:

Florid Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans – **Commander Calvin Hart**

Kirby-Smith Camp #1209 – **Commander Chris Bunton**

Georgia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans – **Commander Timothy F. Pilgrim**

CSS Chattahoochee Camp #2314 – **Captain Jack Cowart**

Mary Ann Harvey Black Chapter #5, Order of Confederate Rose – **Lisa Bess**, President

City of Bainbridge, Georgia – **Edward Reynolds**, Mayor

A very special thanks to **Charles Hall** and the staff of *Hall’s Monuments*, Donalsonville Georgia.

Without their assistance in preparing and engraving the marker, this would not have been possible.



Chaplain's Corner



I was asked to write a Christmas article for the month of December, and my mind immediately went to an article I wrote for *The Cresset* a couple years ago about Ira Sankey's experience on a ship heading up the Delaware River and his fortuitous encounter with a Confederate soldier: Divine Appointment and Revelation. I almost reprinted it but chose not to do that. Maybe it had something to do with Ira Sankey's experience on that ship that cold Christmas Eve night.

You see, people recognized him and requested he sing a traditional Christmas song. That is what Sankey would have chosen to do; however, he felt compelled to sing a different song, and because of his acquiescing, he had an amazing night with a former adversary that would change his life. It is my prayer that my acquiescence here will lead to the same sort of lifechanging event that will change my life (and hopefully someone else's) forever.

Therefore, I will not be writing a traditional Christmas story but rather, one that hopefully changes someone's life. We all know the story of Christmas, and may I say, I thank God for that wonderful story, but "may I say to you" (as Bro. J. Vernon McGee used to say), without the story of Easter, the Christmas story is nothing. Think of it like this: All that was prophesied in the Old Testament is worthless, if it does not come to pass in the New Testament and, if what is revealed in the New Testament was not prophesied in the Old Testament, it too would be of no effect. The Lord Jesus Christ HAD to suffer and die for our sin, and He HAD to be raised for our justification—according to the scriptures, as I Cor. 15: 3-4 clearly states. Our focus should not be on the manger and all the manger scenes we see at Christmas, but He who lay in the manger. Therefore, let us focus on His VICARIOUS sacrifice at Calvary instead of His prophesied VIRGIN birth in Bethlehem.

The sacrifice is what is important. It has been since God gave instructions to the Jewish people regarding sacrifice. The innocent paying the debt in blood for the guilty is God's design. Nothing—NOTHING—was to take away the focus from the sacrifice. In the book of Leviticus chapter 21, God would not allow priests who had ANYTHING about them (which would draw away the focus from the sacrifice) to offer the sacrifice. The focus HAD to be on the sacrifice and not the priest offering it. The truly amazing thing about the Lord's sacrifice though is that He was not only the sacrifice, He was also the priest. At the last supper, we find the Lord breaking the bread HIMSELF and saying, "***This is my body, broken for you.***" As He said in John 10:18, speaking of his life, "***No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.***" While the Lord's birth is very important, and obviously He could not have lived a perfectly sinless life, died a vicarious death, and risen from the dead had He not been born; but again, the focus should always be on His sacrifice. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. One other thing draws away focus.

I have noticed for many years how people wear necklaces or bracelets, put bumper stickers on their vehicles, and even have tattoos on their bodies of crosses. Now, I am not opposed to that at all, but what we must remember is that the altar is not the important thing; again, it is the sacrifice that matters. Yes, the Lord had to die in the manner He did, so the cross is very important, but the sacrifice on the cross is what makes all the difference. In the book of I Samuel chapter 4, we find the story of a judge named Eli. Eli judged Israel forty years; however, he had never learned this truth: Put your confidence in the God of the ark and not the ark of the God. Israel was defeated in battle by the Philistines and the Philistines had taken the ark. When Eli heard that news, he fell backward and his neck brake. His focus was on the altar and not the sacrifice.

In this broken world in which we live, we face things every day that distract us, that vie for our attention, that get our attention and our focus on the everyday things of life. We don't take time to enjoy what the Lord has allowed us to wake up and taste, hear, smell, hear, and see. We get so caught up in making a living; rushing to kids'/grandkids' ball games or concerts; fighting traffic to and from our jobs; cleaning house or yardwork; etc.... We never take time to "stop and smell the roses." All this is by design, gentlemen. We need to FOCUS and focus on what is important...EVERY DAY!

During this glorious season that we remember the birth of our Savior, it is my prayer that we focus on HIM. Remember what He did for us. Men, I love all of you. I cannot (not only as your chaplain, but as a Christian) tell you that I love you and not point you to the One who loves you more than anyone ever could or will.

Thought for today: I owed a debt I could not pay; He paid a debt He did not owe.

My duties as Chaplain include assisting members in need. With that in mind, please let me know if you are aware of any who are sick, bereaved or in need of any services we may offer. Contact me as indicated below.

Chaplain Keith Lassiter

(850) 567-0645

greynole01@yahoo.com

Deo Vindice



Tallahassee Veterans Village

Veterans Chairman: Reginald Roddenberry

Many thanks to all Compatriots for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving!

I want to begin this report in a different way. Before I make note of the donations for our Newsletter it is important for me to expound upon a few thoughts. As I am a Christian, it bespeaks of a lifelong belief in our God. Between thoughts of the grief caused by war and the thanks we give for Jesus, it is so important to remember our veterans who gave their service to our country. I have had people thank me for being a hero (as Vietnam War veteran) of which I am not, but to me it is the ones we left behind on so many battle fields that are the real heroes! Those of us here who have served our nation as veterans, in whatever capacity, rank or position, know the value of our service. I won't quote any biblical verses (I shall leave that to my brother Chaplain Keith Lassiter) but, instead, just say to all, please never shrink from helping those veterans who reside in Veteran Village. They really need our assistance. These men and women need all the donations of goods or services we can give to them. You have asked me to provide some details on the village and their residents. Also, you have asked me to have the Veteran Village Program Manager, Tori Callan, to attend one of our camp meetings to enlighten our compatriots on the information of the veteran program. She shall attend our December meeting to answer our questions about the village and the veteran program. I know some of you have been to the village site, generally to attend one of our BarBQ events we hold every year. For those of you that have never been to the site I challenge you to go out there, sit down with some of these veterans, and converse with them for a few minutes. We pride ourselves as being living historians of the Civil War but also know that these veterans are living historians of their era. I find most of them to be quite interesting, resourceful, and willing to share their experiences once they find out you are seeking their opinions and experiences!

My challenge to our camp at the December meeting is to give \$5.00 from each member, plus donate something (clothes, food, etc.) to the village! Bring donations to the meeting and I will deliver it to them. Please take the time to donate, visit them, and respect their service to our nation by giving of your time, money and donations of clothing and other goods.

Donations: CLOTHES: Women- sweaters 9; pants 10; shirt 1; & tops 2. Men- pants 3; robe 1; throws 2; T shirts 3; shirts 4. FOODS (cans or dried goods): none ACCESSORIES (toiletries): none MONEY: \$67.00 Cash

Deo Vindice



Commander's Guidon

Commander Ned Roberts



My Fellow Compatriots –

I hope each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

At this time of year let us renew our commitment to the Cause and honor the memory of our beloved Confederate ancestors.

The deadline for ordering tickets and requesting ancestor memorials for the 31st Annual **Lee-Jackson Southern Heritage Event** is January 11. This event is scheduled for January 28, 2023. **Mr. Ron Rissler** will be discussing his best-selling book – *“The Blood of Stonewall”*. This year’s banquet will be held at the Jackson Lodge No. 1, on Apalachee Parkway.

We will be doing a food drive at the Lee-Jackson Event to benefit the Veteran’s Village. Please bring some can goods or boxed food items. Let’s show support for the Veterans in need.

We have a scheduled road cleanup of Natural Bridge Road on Saturday, December 10. We need more Compatriots to show up and help with this event. If you have time on the 10th, please come out and help.



Dates in History of the War – December

December 20, 1861 – Two British Troop ships head for Canada due to tensions of the Trent Affair.

December 13, 1862 – Battle of Fredericksburg, VA.

December 7, 1863 – The 4th Confederate Congress meets in Richmond.

December 20, 1864 – Savannah, GA is evacuated before Sherman’s Army.

December 18, 1865 – The 13th Amendment abolishing slavery was put into effect.



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

Dec 10th Natural Bridge Road clean-up, 7000 Natural Bridge Road, 8:30am
Jan 10th Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm, meeting at 6:45 pm.
Jan 28th Lee-Jackson Southern Heritage Event, Jackson Lodge, Tallahassee, 5:00 pm.
Feb 14th Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm, meeting at 6:45 pm.
Mar 14th Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 pm, meeting at 6:45 pm.



Birth Days

Pat Adams 12/5
Kelly Crocker 12/9
Kevin Drawdy 12/16
Geroge Pridgeon 12/18

Larry Clayton 12/21
Ned Roberts 12/25
Jason Turner 12/25
Robert Harvey 12/26

Gerald Bell 12/27
James Bowers 12/30



*I didn't choose to become a member of
the Sons of Confederate Veterans...
My Ancestor made that decision for
me many years ago.*





Ready for your display, your holster, or the firing range!

This is your chance to win this beautiful reproduction
1851 COLT SHERIFF'S MODEL

It is a 36 caliber, black powder, fully functional pistol.

Tickets will be available for purchase at
the Lee/Jackson event (January),
Natural Bridge event (March)
and anytime by contacting

Lisa Bess
239-240-9095
Lisabess21@icloud.com

The drawing will be held at the Florida Reunion in Trenton on June 3, 2023.

Need not be present for drawing as long as your contact information is on the stub.



31st Annual Lee & Jackson Southern Heritage Event



Sponsored by

Finley's Brigade Camp #1614, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Mary Ann Harvey Black Chapter #5, Order of Confederate Rose

January 28, 2023

Social Hour: 5:00 PM Supper/Program: 6:00 PM

**Jackson Lodge No 1
2818 Apalachee Pkwy
Tallahassee, FL 32301**

Tickets: \$35 in advance Door Prizes and Auction

Guest Speaker: Mr. Ron D. Rissler

Author of "The Blood of Stonewall"



For tickets contact:

Adjutant Thomas Williams, 850-942-2866,

Adjutant@finleysbrigadescv.com

or

Commander Ned Roberts, 850-591-9221,

Commander@finleysbrigadescv.com



The 53rd Annual Florida Division Reunion

220 NE 4th Ave Trenton, Florida – June 3, 2023

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: *Members Only*

If Postmarked by May 15th _____ X \$30.00 \$ _____

After May 15th _____ X \$40.00 \$ _____

Ancestor Memorials: _____ X \$5.00 \$ _____

Total remitted \$ _____

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

We will have an Awards Luncheon and no Evening Banquet

NOTE: We will not be able to take meal reservations received after May 20th

NAME: _____

Guest: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____

CAMP NAME & NUMBER:

Please Mail Registration Form & Check to:

Commander Calvin Hart

4884 Victoria Chase Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Please Make Checks Payable To: SCV Florida Division Inc.

